



## VILLAGE OF PINECREST

Press Release

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Pinecrest celebrated Earth Day by hosting eco-friendly family activities and presenting the winners of the student Pollution Solutions contest*

**Pinecrest, Fla.** – Pinecrest Gardens celebrated Earth Day by hosting a free family-friendly day tailored to educate visitors through interactive activities and demonstrations. There was a lady bug release, an eco-friendly fashion show, wildlife shows, and entertainment by the Greater Miami Youth Symphony and Fantasy Theater Factory.

Students from throughout the county got a head start on creating awareness about environmental pollution through the Pinecrest Gardens' Pollution Solutions contest where student filmmakers created a short video, one to three minutes in length, which identified one of seven types of environmental pollution. Each video demonstrated a proposed solution for the pollution issue that they identified in the video.

For photographs, please go to: <http://ge.tt/2nBfvTF2?c>.

Contest finalists presented their pollution solution and winners were selected and announced at the Earth Day event. Congratulations to the winners!

#### **Grades 4-6:**

1st place: Ricardo Alzetta, Federica Kauffmann, Giancarlo Mendieta, Nina Lu Sarria [The Mandelstam School](#)

2nd place: Elijah Perfetto [Eugenia B. Thomas Elementary School](#)

3rd place: Leire Garrogerricaechebarria [Eugenia B. Thomas K-8 Center](#)

#### **Grade 7:**

1st place: Anooshah Bawany [Arthur & Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts](#)

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## **Grades 10-12:**

1st place: Alexandra Olson [TERRA Environmental Research Institute](#)

2nd place: Jose Torres [Immaculata-LaSalle High School](#)

3rd place: Valerie Macaulay and Maria Miranda [Palmer Trinity School](#)

There was one first place winner in each category: grades 4-6, grades 7-9 and grades 10-12. First place student winners received \$300 from Pinecrest and their schools received \$1000 from the contest's sponsor, Ygrene Energy Fund. Schools will use their prize money to implement an environmental project on campus.

To see Pollution Solution contest entries, please go to: <http://bit.ly/1GzdbtY>.

## **About Ygrene**

Ygrene Energy Fund manages Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs on behalf of local municipalities. The PACE program is a revolutionary new way for home owners to finance energy efficiency and hurricane protection property upgrades. It is noncredit-based, long term financing with zero out-of-pocket expense to the property owner. Ygrene pays the contractor directly, and thanks to the establishment of a private-public partnership with 15 different cities in Miami-Dade County, the property owner then repays the money through an annual assessment on their property tax bill.

## **About Pinecrest Gardens**

Pinecrest Gardens attracts over 150,000 visitors each year and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in October 2011, making it historically significant on a local, state and national platform. It is a premier venue for the arts, education and environmental conservation and preservation. On any given day one can catch an arts performance, tour the 14 acres of native forested wetland, tropical hardwood hammock and native cypress slough hammock or take a class in horticulture, archeology and botany.

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